

COMING SOON:

# ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION!

**C**ollege students are a highly mobile population and face greater challenges than most in maintaining up-to-date voter registration. This brochure provides some information about how you, as a college student, can keep your voter registration record current so that you won't miss a chance to cast a vote and make your voice heard. Share these tips with your friends and encourage them to vote, too!

## Can I register to vote?

To be eligible to vote in Washington State, you must:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day.
- Have lived in Washington State for 30 days prior to the election (exceptions apply to military and overseas voters).
- Not maintain a registration in more than one county or one state or under more than one name.
- Not be denied voting rights for being subject to guardianship.
- Not be a convicted felon without restored civil rights.



## What information is required on my voter registration form?

When registering to vote, you must:

- Indicate U.S. citizenship by checking the box on the form.
- Include your driver's license number. If you do not have a driver's license, you may use the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Include your date of birth.
- Include your full name (i.e. last, first, middle initial, jr., sr., II, III).
- Include a Washington State residential address.
- Also include a mailing address if mail is not delivered to your residential address.
- Sign the oath at the bottom of the form (your signature is used to verify your ballot during each election).

## Which address do I use on my voter registration form?

Many college students live at home during the summer months and move back to college during the school year. Whatever your situation, you will need to choose an address from which to vote.

If you choose your home address, you will receive a ballot that has candidates and issues from your hometown. If you choose your college address, you will get a ballot with candidates and issues that impact your college community.

You may change the address on your voter registration record as many times as you would like, but address changes must be made at least 30 days prior to the next election in order to take effect for that election. Use a voter registration form to make these changes.



## Online registration

Online voter registration will be available starting January 1, 2008. As with mail-in registration, you must submit your registration online at least 30 days before an election. For more elections and voting information, including downloadable registration forms, visit the Washington Secretary of State's website at [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov).

## Voter registration deadlines

### BY MAIL

- 30 days before an election.
- The registration must be postmarked no later than the deadline.

### IN-PERSON AT THE LOCAL ELECTIONS OFFICE

- 15 days before an election (only new registrations are allowed during this time).
- Registrations received after the deadline will be effective only for upcoming elections.

*"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter."*

– Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States



# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

## College voter checklist

- ☐ Pick the residential address where you want to be registered to vote – at home or away at college.
- ☐ Contact your county elections department for a voter registration form, or download a form from the Secretary of State's website at [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov).
- ☐ If you register to vote using your home address and would like to have your ballots mailed to your college address, check the ongoing absentee box on your voter registration form and make sure your college mailing address is included on the form.
- ☐ Mail in your completed voter registration form.
- ☐ Make sure the form is postmarked at least 30 days before the next election. If not, you will not be eligible to vote in the next election, but will be eligible to vote in the election after that.
- ☐ If you move frequently, as many college students do, make sure you submit a new voter registration form. In most cases, ballots will not be forwarded to your new address like other mail.
- ☐ Set aside time to study the issues and candidates before you vote.
- ☐ Take every opportunity you can to vote. Local elections may be held in February, March, April and May along with primaries in August and general elections in November. Voting in all elections means you are helping to choose what happens everywhere from your neighborhood to your nation's capital.
- ☐ Encourage your friends to learn about the issues and vote. If you feel strongly enough about an issue or a candidate, get involved in a campaign.
- ☐ If you want to learn more about elections, contact your county elections department and inquire about volunteer opportunities.
- ☐ **VOTE!**

## Questions or concerns?

Contact your county elections department or the Office of the Secretary of State:

### TOLL FREE

(800) 448-4881

### TTY/TDD

(800) 422-8683

### WEBSITE

[www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov)

### ADDRESS

Office of the Secretary of State  
Voter Services Office  
PO Box 40237  
Olympia, WA 98504-0237

# COLLEGE VOTER



*"It's not the hand that signs the laws that holds the destiny of America. It's the hand that casts the ballot."* – Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States



*Washington*  
Secretary of State  
SAM REED